

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 SY-05

MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6581

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, EG

SUBJ: CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. SECURITY AT CAIRO AIRPORT IS APPALLING. RSO'S PRELIMINARY EVALUATION WAS CONTAINED IN AIRO 4756. WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD FAA SECURITY TEAM HERE TO STUDY SECURITY SITUATION AT CAIRO AIRPORT. IN EXIT DEBRIEFING GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR, THEY CONFIRMED FACT THAT SECURITY IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE AT PRESENT TIME. RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIRPORT SECURITY IS DIVIDED AMONG SEVERAL AGENCIES, SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE POORLY TRAINED AND EVEN MORE POORLY MOTIVATED, AND NEEDED SECURITY EQUIPMENT IS LACKING. (AMERICAN PASSENGER ABOARD RECENTLY HIJACKED EGYPTAIR FLIGHT TO LUXOR STATES ONLY CURSORY SECURITY CHECK MADE OF PASSENGERS BOARDING THAT FLIGHT.)

2. FAA TEAM ALSO BRIEFED CAIRO AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND PULLED NO PUNCHES IN DESCRIBING POOR SECURITY SITUATION AND URGING IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES. WE ARE NOW AWAITING FAA SECURITY TEAMS' REPORT, WHICH WE WILL

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DELIVER TO APPROPRIATE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES AND USE AS

A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG NEW DEMARCH TO TIGHTEN CAIRO AIRPORT SECURITY. IN VIEW OF DIVIDE AUTHORITY AT CAIRO AIRPORT, AND SEEMING INABILITY OF EGYPTIAN AGENCIES TO COORDINATE, AMBASSADOR ALSO HAS IN MIND GIVING COPY OF REPORT, ONCE RECEIVED, TO PRIMIN WITH A VIEW TO URGING HIM TO KNOCK A FEW BUREAUCRATIC HEADS TOGETHER AND TIGHTEN SECURITY.

3. WHILE RSO AND FAA TEAM RECOMMENDED INITIATION OF SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR PASSENGERS USING TRANSIT LOUNGE, WE CANNOT BE ASSURED THAT THIS IS BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR EVERY FLIGHT. TWA'S SECURITY OFFICER DANA HARRIS, WHO VISITS CAIRO ON A REGULAR BASIS TO INSPECT THE TWA SCREENING PROCEDURES, INSPECTED THE AIRPORT AFTER THE FAA TEAM DEPARTED AND OBSERVED NO CHANGE IN THE POOR AIRPORT SECURITY. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM FAA TEAM THAT LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES AND KUWAIT AIRLINES WILL NOT RPT NOT PERMIT GOE TO SCREEN ITS INCOMING OR OUTGOING PASSENGERS. FAA TEAM MEMBERS ADVISE THAT AIRPORT AUTHORITIES PLAN TO RELOCATE DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS OF THESE AIRLINES TO THE DOMESTIC TERMINAL. FYI--BASED ON SCANT IMPROVEMENT IN EGYPTIAN PASSENGER SCREENING PROCEDURES, TWA SECURITY OFFICER RECENTLY ADVISED US THAT HE PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT TWA BRING IN ITS OWN SECURITY SCREENING EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO HANDLE ITS FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN CAIRO. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THIS MOVE TO INSURE SECURITY OF US FLAG CARRIER. END FYI.

4. WE ARE AWARE OF FAA SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM AND PLAN TO ENCOURAGE EGYPTIANS AVAIL THESELVES OF IT. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS THE NEED FOR SECURITY INSPECTION EQUIPMENT, E.G., X-RAYS, METAL DETECTORS, PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. AS DEPT IS AWARE, GOE IS CURRENTLY SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS LIQUIDITY PROBLEM AND LACKS THE FUNDS TO PURCHASE SUCH EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. WE SHOULD, THEREFORE,EXPLORE POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH USG CAN HELP IN THIS IMPORTANT ANTI-TERRORIST SPHERE.

5. GIVEN AID INTERPRETATION IN STATE 135568 THAT AID FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE, IS THERE ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBILITY THAT ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 515 (C) OF OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT OF 1968 (42USC3763) MIGHT BE USED AS VEHICLE TO PROVIDE NEEDED COMMODITIES AND TRAINING TO EGYPT? FOR EXAMPLE, COULD EGYPT BE ESTABLISHED AS A PILOT PROJECT FOR AIRPORT SECURITY AND CONTROL OF TERRORISTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IF ABOVE NOT FEASIBLE, REQUEST DEPT CONSIDER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FUNDS IN

ORDER THAT WE MAY PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

6. WHILE IMMEDIATE NEEDS HERE REQUIRE PROMPT ACTION,
BELIEVE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO LONGER TERM SOLUTION
OF SEEKING EXCEPTION OF FAA SEC. 660 TO PERMIT LIMITED
ASSISTANCE FOR ANTI-TERRORIST COMMODITIES AND TRAINING,
THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS OR SPECIAL LEGISLATION
IF NECESSARY. GIVEN CURRENT DEEP CONCERN ON WORLDWIDE
BASIS OVER TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES, BELIEVE THIS WOULD
STRIKE RESPONSIVE CONGRESSIONAL CHORD.
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